The Passing Lane

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CRAB   CEAL   CRIS?

Online Support Forums

We hope you have at least heard about CRAB's homepage on the world wide web. Maybe you have even stopped by for a visit. We recently added a collection of support forums. This feature is similar to what online services or bulletin boards commonly offer. You simply enter the forum area, select the general topic that interests you and start reading the messages that have been posted. The system is very easy to use and it is easy to follow specific topics and keep track of responses to specific questions. Of course **YOU** unleash the power of this system when **YOU** start writing and responding to messages on the system.

We believe this system is a great medium for us to deliver technical support and for you to receive technical support. With this technology it is quite plausible that DrJohn could be answering your CRIS questions at 6am while still wearing his Buck Rogers pajamas. So please give this system a try. Go to the CRAB homepage (http://www.crab.wa.gov/) and click on the ''Forums'' button.

County Web Sites

Chelan county is the latest to setup a homepage on CRAB's web server. They have joined Clark and Snohomish counties in taking advantage of this free service. This is an exciting time to be involved with the so-called Information Superhighway. The technology is new and everyone is eager to share their knowledge (or lack thereof) with everyone else. With minimal effort (apologies to maximal efforts) each one of these counties is offering a valuable service to citizens and private industry in their regions. If creating a presence for your organization on the internet interests you, and you are not sure how to get started, please sign up for our HTML workshop. The next class is scheduled for April 22nd. Give us a call at 360-753-5989 to sign-up.

🦀 Information Technology Training

CRAB continues with FREE training sessions in its primary software support functions, the County Road Information System (CRIS), EaglePoint Fundamentals and the Civil Engineering Automation Library (CEAL). Here's the latest schedule:

April:

- ◇ 17-19 Eagle Point Fundamentals
- ◇ 22 HTML Workshop
- ◇ 24 Introduction to CRIS
- ◇ 25,26 CRIS Reporting Workshop
- ◇ 30-5/2 Eagle Point Fundamentals

REGISTER HERE

Call today to reserve your spot in our *FREE* courses. Refreshers are always welcome too!

🦀 New on the Homepage

Ever wish you could dig up an old copy of the Passing Lane? Where you know you saw something back in October you just had to see again? Look no further than our CRAB Homepage and you can download any issue of the Passing Lane from it's inception. No only that, you can get the Training Catalog to peruse and check out our class synopses. The files are 'PDF' files which need a PDF viewier. Luckily you can grab that from the Homepage too if you don't have one. So fear no more, your old Passing Lanes are here.
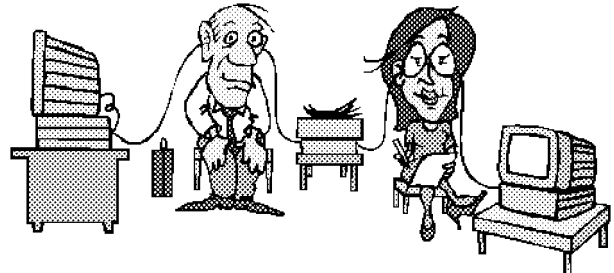
♟ CEAL for Windows 95

CEAL 7.042 is the latest version of the software available from CRAB and its the one that works in Windows 95. If you want to be able to run CEAL as a DOS app in Microsoft's newest operating system, call the CRAB CEAL support line and make your order.

Setting up CEAL in Windows 95 is a little different than in Windows 3.1. Using Notepad or some other text editor, add the following line to the top of the file CEAL.BAT :
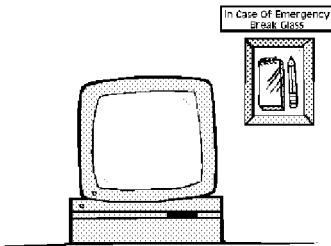
PATH=C:\CEAL;EXE;%PATH%.

Back in Windows, right click on the task bar and choose Properties then Start Menu Programs. Choose the ADD button and Browse for CEAL.PIF in the CEAL directory. Choose NEXT, then pick a folder to place the icon in. Once you choose OK, you're back to the Start Menu Programs dialog. Now choose Advanced and pick the explorer to highlight the CEAL icon you just created. Choose File/Properties and then Memory tab listed along the top of the Properties dialog. CLM recommends that you fill in the DOS DPMI Memory box with the number 36000 (at the bottom).

You can now consider yourself configured. To run CEAL, use the task bar menu to highlight the CEAL icon in that folder and watch CEAL happen. Keep your eyes on the Passing Lane to find out more about what's new in CEAL.

Pattern Watch

Eagle Point allows you to define custom line patterns in data collection. This involves the regular insertion of text or blocks into a line when the line gets created during data reduction. One feature we need to be careful about is the ability to cause a physical break in the resulting polyline in the drawing at each text/block instance. This may look nice, but it needs to be avoided on lines which will end up being selected as breaklines for producing surface models. That physical break in the line will result in leaks in your breakline and defeat its purpose.

There is no workaround here except to accept the unfailing look of continuity.

New stuff in Eagle Point 13.1

Eagle Point 13.1 now supports the *optional* use of an external database in many popular formats for storing and retrieving COGO points (or nodes). This allows network users to lock nodes and reserve node ranges for their own use, preventing duplicate node production by multiple users. Discrepancies s are tracked and resolved by the user either interactively or as a batch. Now, by simply referencing the same database, multiple users can be adding information to a project without having to have the same Autocad drawing open. **NEAT!**

Network users may also share their program directory, saving local area disk space. This is done using the EPDWG and EPSUPPORT variables in the EP.INI file found in the user's PROGRAM directory.

Another new module to point to the user locations for these Eagle Point directories, is called *"quantity takeoff.*" It allows you to tag any drawing element with item number, description, pay unit, and cost. Estimates can then be assembled based on things you (or Eagle Point) have drawn. CRAB will be demonstrating quantity takeoff over the next couple of months to assess interest in this module and develop a strategy for eventual purchase.

Autocad C4 is here

Autocad R13 version C4 shipped last month to those holding R13 licenses. This is the first version of Autocad to be 100% Windows 95 compatible. Eagle Point has taken this opportunity to release its first incremental update in its own R13 cycle. This is called Eagle Point 13.1 (see related story) and will run on all supported CAD platforms (ACAD R12 DOS and Windows, ACAD R13 DOS and Windows, and Microstation 5.5 and 95 DOS and Windows). Changes in this version of Autocad are such that Eagle Point 13.0 WILL NOT run in R13 C4. You may want to hold off on your Autocad upgrade until you get your update from Eagle Point sometime before the end of April. Take note that Eagle Point 13.1 will run on all existing CAD platforms *except* R13 Windows prior to C4.

If May hits and you still haven't received your Eagle Point 13.1, phone CRAB's Eagle Point support line so you can holler at somebody.

Maybe this is your opportunity to upgrade to Eagle Point for R13 Windows. It promises to be the most stable Autocad we've seen in a while, which will allow you to run your day in Windows. If you do not now have an Eagle Point license for R13 Windows, then you need to order the media for the upgrade by sending a request in writing for the number of licenses you need upgraded to: CRAB Eagle Point Support, MS 40913, Olympia, WA 98504-0913.

Note that there is a charge of $100 per license for this activity in a draft made out to Eagle Point, and that you will be sent a bill for this when we receive your request.

☙Tips and Tricks in AREV 3.12

Amazement has struck more than a few CRIS eyes when shown that they could now list their reference points or roadlog segments (or any other CRIS data table really) with the most number of accidents and any details they wished about those accidents! One tip for easy access in using these fields (rows) is:

> **Create a second, empty TCL window (F5).**

> **Use the Dictionary Quick Reference key (F6) in this empty TCL window to display and select the detailed accident information fields (rows) you want.**

> **Now that the fields (rows) are in your second TCL window copy them with the cut key (Control F3).**

> **Escape back to you first TCL window (Esc).**

> **Position the cursor in your RList sentence where you want the accident fields (rows) to be and paste them in (Control-F4).**

This process can be performed several times on one RList command.

Speaking of tips, here is another:

Use the options key on the road number prompt even if you know the road number. Once a value has been put in the options window it stays until you change it or exit CRIS. If you move to another screen to view items and want to use the same road number, all you have to do is press F2 then Enter.

☙CRIS Upgrades/Notes

Currently 17 counties have moved up their CRIS with 3 more happening in the next 2 weeks. That's just a little over half of you. As the sun warms things up this spring, expect a call from Dr. John. He would like to finish the upgrades by Summer. Most upgrades have been averaging about 1-2 days.

Nifty new things in AREV 3.12!!

- **Command stack saved between sessions**

- **The mouse works!**

- **Moving data between PCs/systems using menus**

- **User examples for security attributes**

- **Maintenance batch update improvements, fight the typo monster and use the popups!**

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